

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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R 252105Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7310
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, FJ
SUBJECT: ICFTU-ARO REGIONAL MEETING IN BANGKOK APR 25-27

REF: BRUSSELS 07634

1. IN ADDITION TO QUESTION MENTIONED IN REFTEL (VIETNAMESE REFUGEES) AS LIKELY TO GENERATE DISCUSSION THERE IS ANOTHER ITEM ON ARO AGENDA WHICH ALTHOUGH MORE OF A LOCAL (NEW ZEALAND - FIJI) INTEREST IS LIKELY TO STRAIN THE APO MEETING. IT GOES BACK TO JULY 1977 WHEN A STRIKE BY THE FIJIAN DOCKWORKERS AND SEAMEN'S UNION WHICH AT THE TIME WAS NO LONGER AFFILIATED WITH FTUC (THE ICFTU AFFILIATE) ELICITED EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY SUPPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN DOCKWORKERS' UNIONS AND THEIR NATIONAL
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CENTERS. BECAUSE OF THIS SUPPORT THE STRIKE WAS EFFECTIVE AND IN THE PROCESS REVEALED TO THE FIJIAN GOVERNMENT THE DEGREE OF ITS DEPENDENCE ON AUSTRALIAAN AND NEW ZEALAND SUPPLIERS AND THROUGH THEM ON PACIFIC DOCK- WORKERS' UNIONS SOLIDARITY.

2. AFTER THE JULY STRIKE THE FIJANS (BOTH GOF AND

FTUC) ALLEGED THAT NEW ZEALAND DOCKWORKERS' UNION AND FNL INTERFERRED IN FIJI'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS ALLEGATION WAS FINALLY REDUCED TO WRITING BY JAMES RAMAN (FTUC SECRETARY GENERAL ATTENDING BANGKOK MEETING) WHO IN ADDITION COMPLAINED THAT NFL HAD FAILED TO COMMUNICATE FIRST WITH FTUC AS IT SHOULD HAVE DONE SINCE THEY ARE BOTH SISTER AFFILIATES OF ICTFU. NFL DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS AND BROUGHT ITS COMPLAINT AGAINST FTUC TO ARO.

3. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW ARO WILL SORT THINGS OUT. WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT ADDRESSEES WILL PUT SUVA ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANY REPORTS ON ARO MEETING. CONDON

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Message Attributes

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